

IT IS CLAIMED

1. A method for determining a health status of a selected network device in a data network, the method comprising:

transmitting a resource request to the selected network device;

5 receiving data from the network device in response to the resource request, said data including content information;

verifying at least a portion of said content information by verifying at least one format of selected content information using predetermined format verification rules; and

10 determining the health status of the network device based upon results of said content verification.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said content information verification includes determining whether any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format of said selected content information.

15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined format verification rules include regular expressions.

20 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected network device is a selected server in a load balanced server farm system.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the content information includes HTML data.

25 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the resource request corresponds to a URL request corresponding to a specific HTML page.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the HTML page includes dynamically generated HTML data.

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8. The method of claim 6 wherein the HTML page includes customized HTML data.

9. A method for performing content verification of data received from a selected network device, the method comprising:

receiving data from the network device, said data including content information; and

verifying at least a portion of said content information by verifying at least one format of selected content information using predetermined format verification rules;

wherein said content information verification includes determining whether any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format of said selected content information.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising transmitting a resource request to the selected network device.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said predetermined format verification rules include regular expressions.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the selected network device is a selected server in a load balanced server farm system.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the content information includes HTML data.

14. A method for determining a health status of a selected network device in a data network, the method comprising:

transmitting a resource request to the selected network device; receiving data from the network device in response to the resource request, said data including content information;

verifying at least one format of selected content information using predetermined format verification rules, wherein said format verification includes determining whether

any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format of said selected content information; and

determining whether the network device is functioning properly based upon results of said format verification.

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15. The method of claim 14 wherein said predetermined format verification rules include regular expressions.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the selected network device is a selected server in a load balanced server farm system.

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17. The method of claim 14 wherein the content information includes HTML data.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the resource request corresponds to a URL request corresponding to a specific HTML page.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the HTML page includes dynamically generated HTML data.

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20. The method of claim 18 wherein the HTML page includes customized HTML data.

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21. A computer program product for determining a health status of a selected network device in a data network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein, the computer readable code comprising:

computer code for transmitting a resource request to the selected network device;

computer code for receiving data from the network device in response to the

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resource request, said data including content information;

computer code for verifying at least a portion of said content information by verifying at least one format of selected content information using predetermined format verification rules; and

5 computer code for determining whether the network device is functioning properly based upon results of said content verification.

22. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said content information verification code includes computer code for determining whether any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format of said selected content information.

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23. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said predetermined format verification rules include regular expressions.

24. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the selected network  
15 device is a selected server in a load balanced server farm system.

25. A computer program product for performing content verification of data received from a selected network device, the computer program product comprising:

20 computer code for receiving data from the network device, said data including content information; and

computer code for verifying at least a portion of said content information by verifying at least one format of selected content information using predetermined format verification rules;

25 wherein said content information verification code includes computer code for determining whether any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format of said selected content information.

26. A computer program product for determining a health status of a selected network device in a data network, the computer program product comprising:

30 computer code for transmitting a resource request to the selected network device;

computer code for receiving data from the network device in response to the resource request, said data including content information;

computer code for verifying at least one format of selected content information using predetermined format verification rules, wherein said format verification code includes computer code for determining whether any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format of said selected content information; and

5 computer code for determining whether the network device is functioning properly based upon results of said format verification.

27. A system for determining a health status of a selected network device in a data network, the system comprising:

10 at least one CPU;

memory adapted to store format verification rules; and

at least one interface for communicating with said selected network device;

the system being configured or designed to transmit a resource request to the selected network device;

15 the system being further configured or designed to receive data from the network device in response to the resource request, said data including content information;

the system being further configured or designed to verify at least a portion of said content information by verifying at least one format of selected content information using said format verification rules;

20 the system being further configured or designed to determine the health status of the network device based upon results of said content verification.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein said system is further configured or designed to determine whether any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format  
25 of said selected content information.

29. The system of claim 27 wherein said format verification rules include predefined regular expressions.

30 30. The system of claim 27 wherein the selected network device is a selected server in a load balanced server farm system.

31. The system of claim 27 wherein the content information includes HTML data.

32. The system of claim 31 wherein the resource request corresponds to a URL request corresponding to a specific HTML page.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein the HTML page includes dynamically generated HTML data.

34. The system of claim 32 wherein the HTML page includes customized HTML data.

35. A system for performing content verification of data received from a selected network device, the system comprising:

at least one CPU;

memory adapted to store format verification rules; and

at least one interface for communicating with said selected network device;

the system being configured or designed to receive data from the network device, said data including content information; and

the system being further configured or designed to verify at least a portion of said content information by verifying at least one format of selected content information using said format verification rules;

the system being further configured or designed to determine whether any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format of said selected content information.

36. The system of claim 35 wherein said format verification rules include predefined regular expressions.

37. The system of claim 35 wherein the selected network device is a selected server in a load balanced server farm system.

38. A system for determining a health status of a selected network device in a data network, the system comprising:

at least one CPU;

memory adapted to store format verification rules; and

at least one interface for communicating with said selected network device;

the system being configured or designed to transmit a resource request to the selected network device;

the system being configured or designed to receive data from the network device in response to the resource request, said data including content information;

the system being further configured or designed to verify at least one format of selected content information using predetermined format verification rules, wherein said format verification includes determining whether any inconsistencies are detected in the at least one format of said selected content information;

the system being further configured or designed to determine whether the network device is functioning properly based upon results of said format verification.

39. The system of claim 38 wherein the content information includes HTML data.

40. The system of claim 39 wherein the resource request corresponds to a URL request corresponding to a specific HTML page.

41. The system of claim 40 wherein the HTML page includes dynamically generated HTML data.

42. The system of claim 40 wherein the HTML page includes customized HTML data.

43. The system of claim 38 wherein said format verification rules include predefined regular expressions.

44. A system for determining a health status of a selected network device in a data network, the system comprising:

means for transmitting a resource request to the selected network device;

means for receiving data from the network device in response to the resource

5 request, said data including content information;

means for verifying at least a portion of said content information by verifying at least one format of selected content information using predetermined format verification rules; and

10 means for determining the health status of the network device based upon results of said content verification.